



**SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
ON THE  
**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**  
FOR  
**1953**

---

**Medical Officer of Health :**

**FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Cantab.)**



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**SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON URBAN DISTRICT  
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# **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

## **Medical Officer of Health :**

Frank Hauxwell, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

## **Chief Sanitary Inspector :**

Mr. Alexander Leslie, M.S.I.A.

## **Additional Sanitary Inspector :**

Mr. J. W. Kendall, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

## **Rodent Operator :**

Mr. W. G. Chamberlain

## **Chief Clerk :**

Mr. O. A. Kent

## **Clerks :**

Mrs. P. Atkins

Miss S. Whitehead

# SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Health Offices,  
Johnson House,  
Burley Road,  
Sittingbourne, Kent.

November, 1954.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report on the health of Sittingbourne for the year 1953.

The estimated mid-year population, as given by the Registrar General, was 21,930, which is 10 less than the figure given as the estimated mid-year population for 1952.

The Birth Rate for the year was 16.2 per thousand of the population as compared with 15.7 in 1952. The corrected Birth Rate is still higher than that for England and Wales as a whole, i.e. 16.6 as against 15.5 per thousand.

The number of deaths occurring in and/or assigned to the Urban District during 1953 was considerably increased owing to the instructions of the Registrar General that all deaths at Milton Hospital must, as from the 1st January, 1953, be included in the statistics for Sittingbourne. Previously deaths at Milton Hospital were debited to the area from which the patient had been admitted and as the proportion of persons from Sittingbourne was relatively small the deaths there of local residents made little appreciable difference to the death rate of this Urban District. Of the 433 deaths occurring in, or assigned to, Sittingbourne during 1953, 201 occurred in Milton Hospital but only 46 of these were of persons previously resident in the Urban District. The effect of this alteration in statistical procedure is that the Death Rate for Sittingbourne for 1953 at 19.7 per 1,000 of the population stands at a much higher figure than has been known for many years. Even when adjusted for age and sex distribution to the Corrected Death Rate of 17.9 per 1,000 it is considerably higher than that of England and Wales as a whole, i.e. 11.4 per thousand.

There was also a disturbing increase in the number of deaths of infants under one year of age during 1953, 16 as against 9 deaths in 1952 and 14 deaths in 1951. This increase

has resulted in a much higher infant mortality rate for the year, being 44.8 per thousand live births, as against 26 per thousand in 1952 and 40.3 per thousand in 1951. The rate for England and Wales as a whole being 26.8 per thousand live births.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year showed a slight increase over those for the previous year, being 409 as against 387. This increase was due entirely to a slightly greater incidence of Measles as compared with those occurring in 1952. There was, however, a welcome reduction in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Pneumonia and Poliomyelitis notified, and for the sixth year in succession there were no cases of Diphtheria.

During the year, 16 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and four deaths occurred from this form of the disease. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 17 and 3. Consideration of the figures in relation to this disease suggest that though during the past 23 years there has been a very considerable reduction in the death rate, there has not been a corresponding lessening of the number of new cases notified each year. To some extent this may be due to increased facilities for diagnosis and the more general use of these facilities by the general public but it is doubtful if this can fully explain why there has been so little variation during the past ten years in the number of new cases notified each year and the assumption has to be accepted that though the disease has in recent years become more amenable to treatment there has been no corresponding lessening in incidence.

For that portion of the Report dealing with general sanitation, food supplies, housing and etc., I am indebted to Mr. A. Leslie, the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector.

During the year, the Council's Slum Clearance programme initiated in 1952 was continued in increased extent and a further three areas, including 34 houses, were represented as unfit. These were all in the Milton area. As this programme will include an increasing number of houses to be inspected each year until its completion, the additional work thrown on the Sanitary Staff in carrying out all the necessary inspections and drafting of the necessary reports is considerable and the Council may have to consider whether some augmentation of the Staff may not be necessary.

In addition to the eradication of unfit houses, there is also the question of the repair of houses which are at present repairable but which if no action is taken in the im-



mediate future will quickly degenerate into further "slum" property.

The supervision of food supplies still forms a very important part of the Sanitary Inspectors' duties and it is satisfactory to note that generally speaking conditions as to food hygiene in the area are very satisfactory. In this connection, arrangements have now been made for the provision of a wash basin in each public convenience available free of charge for hand washing purposes.

In carrying on the work of the Department I am greatly indebted to all members of the Staff for their ever cheerful and helpful assistance, and especially am I indebted to Mr. Leslie, Chief Sanitary Inspector, who despite his manifold duties can always find time to help in solving problems.

I would also take this opportunity of thanking members of the Council for their encouragement and kindly consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

## Section I

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### 1. CLIMATOLOGY

The Weather during the year, although rather mild, was generally unsettled, the first three months being exceptionally dry, as also were the months of November and December. The Summer was again disappointing and the months of May, June and July were very wet.

On the night of 31st January/1st February, when the East Coast Flood disaster occurred, there was serious and considerable flooding in the Council's area. In all a total of 118 houses were involved. Most of these were in the Milton Area but some houses in the Crown Quay Lane, Little Murston and Elmley Ferry Areas were also affected by the floods. A special Report by Mr. A. Leslie, Chief Sanitary Inspector, on the flooding occasioned and the problems arising therefrom, is printed in Appendix "G."

Monthly rainfall readings recorded at Highsted Waterworks over the past six years are shown in Appendix "A."

#### 2. AREA IN ACRES

Land and Inland water	...	...	4,935
No change.			

#### 3. POPULATION

The estimated mid-year population for 1953, as given by the Registrar General, was 21,930, a decrease of 10 against the estimated mid-year population for 1952, but an increase of 26 over the Census figures taken in April, 1951.

#### 4. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1953 was 6,734, an increase of 79 on the preceding year.

#### 5. RATEABLE VALUE

The rateable value has risen to £174,892 as compared with £171,440 in 1952.

#### 6. SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE

The sum representing the penny rate is £699 as compared with £686 in 1952.

## Section II

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### 1. BIRTHS

The number of births during the year (357) was the highest recorded since 1949, when 374 births were registered. The figures for 1952, 1951 and 1950 were 346, 347 and 343 respectively. Although there has been an increase of 11 births in 1953 over the figure for 1952, the figure for the year is still very much below the immediate post-war years of 1946 and 1947 when 450 and 532 births were registered respectively.

##### (a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate ...	173 (160)	167 (171)	340 (331)*
Illegitimate ...	8 ( 8)	9 ( 7)	17 ( 15)
Totals ...	181 (168)	176 (178)	357 (346)

The percentage of illegitimate births has increased slightly to 5.0% and is the highest figure since 1949. The percentages for the previous years were : 4.5% for each of the years 1952, 1951 and 1950, 5.3% in 1949, 3.1% in 1948 and 4.5% in 1947.

##### (b) Birth Rate

The crude birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 16.2 in 1953 as against 15.7 in 1952. The figures for previous years were : 15.8 in 1951, 15.3 in 1950, 16.8 in 1949, 17.8 in 1948 and 24.4 in 1947.

The corrected birth rate is 16.6, as compared with that of England and Wales as a whole, i.e. 15.5 per thousand.

##### (c) Still-Births

Six still-births occurred during the year, as compared with three in 1952, eight in 1951 and seven for each of the years 1950, 1949 and 1948. There were fifteen still-births in 1947.

The percentage of still-births to live-births for the year shows a considerable increase over 1952, being 1.6% as against

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.



0.8%. However, it may be noted that even this increased figure is considerably less than those for the preceding years: 2.3% in 1951, 2.0% in 1950, 1.8% in 1949, 1.7% in 1948 and 2.8% in 1947. One of the still-births during 1953 was illegitimate.

## 2. DEATHS

(a) The number of deaths occurring in and assignable to the Urban District during 1953 was 433. Of these, there were 220 males and 213 females.

These figures show a very considerable increase on those for previous years (there is an increase of 189 over the total for 1952), the chief reason being that as from 1st January, 1953, all deaths at Milton Hospital are now assigned to Sittingbourne, whereas in previous years the record of death of a person dying in Milton Hospital was transferred to the Area from which he or she had been admitted. The new arrangement is in accordance with a new practice adopted by the Registrar General for statistical purposes.

Of the 433 deaths assigned to Sittingbourne during 1953, 201 occurred at Milton Hospital, but only 46 of these were of persons previously resident in the Urban District.

This new procedure in the allocation of deaths will mean that in future years the death rate for the Urban District will be considerably higher than it has been in the past and comparison with pre-1953 years will not give a true index of the health of the Urban District.

The average age of death was 70.8 being 69.2 for males and 72.4 for females. The oldest deaths were 2 females who were both aged 98 years. The average age of death during 1952 was 67.0 being 66.9 for males and 68.5 for females.

The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred :—

TABLE I

Sex	Under 1 Year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 and Over
Males	9	1	—	2	4	5	7	22	49	94	27
Females	7	—	1	—	2	4	7	22	50	73	47
Totals	16	1	1	2	6	9	14	44	99	167	74



## (b) Death Rate

The crude death rate for 1953 was 19.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 11.1 per 1,000 in the preceding year.

As explained above, the chief reason for this increase is the inclusion in local statistics of all deaths at Milton Hospital irrespective of original place of residence. Had the statistics been compiled in accordance with the practice of previous years the total deaths assignable to the area of the Sittingbourne and Milton Council would have numbered 278 only, and the crude death rate would have been 12.6.

The corrected death rate for the area, i.e. the rate adjusted for age and sex distribution, to that for England and Wales as a whole, was 17.9 in 1953 as against 11.4 in 1952, and that of 11.4 per 1,000 for England and Wales as a whole.

(c) The causes of death classified by the Registrar General under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948, are set out in Table II overleaf.

TABLE II

Disease				Males	Females	Totals
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	2 ( 3)	2 ( —)	4 ( 3)*
2	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	— ( 1)	— ( —)	— ( 1)
3	Syphilitic disease	..	..	3 ( 2)	— ( —)	3 ( 2)
4	Diphtheria	..	..	— ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
5	Whooping Cough	..	..	— ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
6	Meningococcal infections	..	..	— ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
7	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	— ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
8	Measles	..	..	— ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	— ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	6 ( 5)	7 ( 5)	13 ( 10)
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	3 ( 2)	— ( —)	3 ( 2)
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	— ( —)	7 ( 4)	7 ( 4)
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	— ( —)	3 ( 2)	3 ( 2)
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	23 ( 11)	15 ( 14)	38 ( 25)
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	— ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
16	Diabetes	..	..	— ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	46 ( 14)	63 ( 22)	109 ( 36)
18	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	20 ( 17)	12 ( 12)	32 ( 29)
19	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	3 ( 3)	3 ( 1)	6 ( 4)
20	Other heart disease	..	..	61 ( 32)	62 ( 28)	123 ( 60)
21	Other circulatory disease	..	..	8 ( 3)	5 ( 1)	13 ( 4)
22	Influenza	..	..	1 ( —)	3 ( 1)	4 ( 1)
23	Pneumonia	..	..	8 ( 4)	6 ( 4)	14 ( 8)
24	Bronchitis	..	..	6 ( 9)	2 ( 2)	8 ( 11)
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	— ( 1)	— ( 1)	— ( 2)
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	2 ( 1)	2 ( —)	4 ( 1)
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	— ( 1)	1 ( —)	1 ( 1)
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	1 ( 3)	— ( 3)	1 ( 6)
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	3 ( 2)	— ( —)	3 ( 2)
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	— ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
31	Congenital malformations	..	..	2 ( —)	1 ( 2)	3 ( 2)
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	12 ( 10)	18 ( 9)	30 ( 19)
33	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	5 ( 2)	— ( —)	5 ( 2)
34	All other accidents	..	..	3 ( 2)	— ( 1)	3 ( 3)
35	Suicide	..	..	2 ( 3)	1 ( 1)	3 ( 4)
36	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	— ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
All causes				220 (131)	213 (113)	433 (244)

From the above Table, it will be seen that the chief increases in causes of death during 1953 are in those occurring from malignant diseases and in those classified as associated with heart disease and vascular lesions of the nervous system (cerebral haemorrhage, etc.). This is not surprising when it is remembered that so many of these deaths were of old people admitted to Milton Hospital because they were in need of care and attention. Deaths from Heart Disease and associated conditions (283) accounted for 65.3% of all deaths

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

occurring during 1953 and those from Malignant Diseases (64) for 14.7%.

Amongst other causes of death there was no appreciable difference in comparison with previous years, and it is gratifying to note that for the fourth successive year there were no deaths associated with pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

(d) The following Table gives details of Deaths, Births and Infantile Mortality for the period 1930 to 1953, inclusive.

TABLE III

Year	Population	Deaths				Births		Infant Mortality				
		Number of deaths at all ages.	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population.	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population.	Still-Births	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age per 1,000 Births.
1930	19,838	257	12.8	332	20	352	17.6	7	14	1	15	42.6
1931	20,175	226	11.2	339	6	345	17.1	7	10	1	11	31.8
1932	20,320	222	10.9	342	13	355	17.4	12	22	1	23	64.7
1933	20,350	256	12.5	337	13	350	17.1	14	22	—	22	62
1934	20,480	265	12.9	321	8	329	16.0	10	16	2	18	54
1935	20,700	237	11.4	340	8	348	16.4	15	11	—	11	32
1936	20,920	245	11.7	296	11	307	14.6	15	12	—	12	39
1937	20,880	244	11.6	322	13	335	16.0	1	11	—	11	32
1938	20,950	218	10.4	293	10	303	14.4	14	9	1	10	33
1939	20,860	262	12.4	318	10	328	15.7	15	8	1	9	27
1940	20,670	280	13.5	311	9	320	15.4	10	18	1	19	57
1941	19,880	247	12.4	257	11	268	13.4	7	6	—	6	22
1942	19,270	233	12.0	291	18	309	16.0	9	16	—	16	51
1943	18,790	249	13.2	334	14	348	18.5	13	17	—	17	48.8
1944	18,790	231	12.2	340	31	371	19.7	9	16	4	20	53.9
1945	19,140	236	12.3	350	34	384	20.0	11	12	3	15	39
1946	21,040	230	10.9	419	31	450	21.3	12	13	1	14	31
1947	21,560	248	11.5	509	23	532	24.4	15	17	—	17	32
1948	22,240	228	10.2	385	12	397	17.8	7	8	—	8	22
1949	22,150	271	12.2	355	19	374	16.8	7	15	—	15	37.4
1950	22,340	228	10.2	328	15	343	15.3	7	8	—	8	23
1951	21,920	265	12.0	332	15	347	15.8	8	14	—	14	40.3
1952	21,940	244	11.1	331	15	346	15.7	3	9	—	9	26.0
1953	21,930	433	19.7	340	17	357	16.2	6	16	—	16	44.8



### 3. INFANT MORTALITY

(a) In comparison with the preceding year there was a considerable increase in the number of deaths of infants under one year of age : 16 deaths in 1953 as compared with 9 in 1952. As will be seen in Table III the number of such deaths recorded during 1953 is the highest since 1947 and on only five occasions during the past twenty years has it been equalled or exceeded. The infant mortality rate for the year was 44.8 per thousand live births as against 26.0 per thousand in 1952, 40.3 per thousand in 1951 and 23.0 per thousand in 1950. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales as a whole in 1953 was 26.8 per thousand live births.

(b) The detailed causes of death among infants during 1953 were as follows :—

TABLE IV

Cause	Sex	Age at Death	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Broncho-Pneumonia ..	M	3 months	Home	Home
Asphyxia Neonatorum ..	F	17 hours	Home	Home
Broncho-Pneumonia ..	M	9 months	Home	Home
Prematurity .. ..	M	40 minutes	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity .. ..	M	10 minutes	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity .. ..	F	1 day	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity .. ..	F	17 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity .. ..	M	3 days	Hospital	Hospital
Icterus Gravis Neonatorum— Rhesus Incompatibility ..	F	3 hours	Home	Home
Pneumococcal Pyaemia— Suppurative Otitis Media	M	3 weeks	Hospital	Hospital
Paralytic Ileus following Operation for Pyloric Sten- osis .. ..	M	5 weeks	Hospital	Hospital
Hypostatic Pneumonia ..	F	1 month	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity .. ..	F	3 months	Hospital	Hospital
Congenital Heart Disease ..	M	2 weeks	Hospital	Hospital
Acute Bronchiolitis ..	F	2 months	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity .. ..	M	8 hours	Hospital	Hospital

The above Table shows that 8 of the 16 deaths occurred in infants under 1 week old and in 6 of these the cause of death has been given as Prematurity. That in all these cases the child was born and died in hospital indicates that the very best facilities for the survival of the child after birth were available. It therefore again stresses the very great importance of good and regular ante-natal care not only in the interest of the health of the Mother but also in the production of a full time healthy child.



### Section III

## INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

### 1. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—INCIDENCE

There was during 1953 a slight increase, in comparison with the previous year, in the total number of cases of infectious disease notified—409 cases in 1953, 387 in 1952. However, this increased figure was much below the number notified in the years 1948, 1950 and 1951, i.e. 622, 706 and 495 respectively. The figure for 1949 was 374.

The increase in 1953 was mainly due to an increase in cases of Measles, especially during the first quarter of the year when 311 out of the total of 332 for the year, were notified. This incidence followed a correspondingly heavy incidence in the last two quarters of 1952. One case only was admitted to hospital and there were no deaths attributable to the disease.

Of the 26 cases of Scarlet Fever, 17 were notified during the months of February and March.

The two cases of Dysentery were both school children attending different schools and though both occurred in July there appeared to be no connection. Investigations at the households affected showed no other members with the infection.

Only 2 cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year, one (a child aged  $4\frac{1}{2}$  years) being notified in February, and the other (a boy aged 10 years) notified in September. Both were of the paralytic type and were admitted to hospital for necessary treatment.

For the sixth successive year there were no cases of Diphtheria during 1953.

(a) The total number of cases occurring, number of cases admitted to Hospital and the total deaths from each disease as shown in the Registrar General's classification of deaths, are shown in the following Table :—

TABLE V

Disease	No. of Cases	Admissions to Hospital or Sanatorium	Deaths
Scarlet Fever .. ..	26 ( 29)	12 ( 24)	— ( —)*
Diphtheria .. ..	— ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
Measles .. ..	332 (297)	1 ( —)	— ( —)
Whooping Cough .. ..	26 ( 32)	1 ( —)	— ( —)
Food Poisoning .. ..	— ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
Dysentery .. ..	2 ( —)	1 ( —)	— ( —)
Erysipelas .. ..	2 ( 2)	1 ( 2)	— ( —)
Pneumonia .. ..	2 ( 4)	— ( —)	14 ( 8)
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	1 ( —)	— ( —)	— ( —)
Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	2 ( 5)	2 ( 5)	— ( —)
Tuberculosis :—			
Pulmonary .. ..	16 ( 17)	12 ( 14)	4 ( 3)
Non-Pulmonary .. ..	— ( 1)	— ( —)	— ( 1)
TOTALS ..	409 (387)	30 ( 45)	18 ( 12)

(b) The distribution by age group of the cases notified is shown in Table VI, thus :—

TABLE VI  
Age Groups of Cases Notified

	Under 1 Year	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-60	60 & ov.	Total
Scarlet Fever .. ..	—	—	3	18	4	1	—	—	—	—	26
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .. ..	10	51	82	184	2	1	1	1	—	—	332
Whooping Cough .. ..	9	6	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Food Poisoning .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .. ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Pneumonia .. ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Tuberculosis :—											
Pulmonary .. ..	—	1	—	—	1	4	6	—	2	2	16
Non-Pulmonary .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	19	58	90	211	10	6	8	2	2	3	409

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(c) Table VII shows the number of cases of the infectious diseases each year during the past 10 years.

**TABLE VII**  
**INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE**  
**UNDERMENTIONED TEN YEARS**

Disease	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	46	47	49	24	18	49	37	18	29	26
Diphtheria ..	1	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	10	364	114	75	438	222	544	226	297	332
Whooping Cough	119	53	36	33	188	63	86	219	32	26
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	28	15	2	3	1	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas ..	8	4	4	4	3	7	8	5	2	2
Pneumonia ..	6	3	4	1	3	6	1	1	4	2
Typhus Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever } Puerperal Pyrexia }	3	5	2	2	1	—	1	3	—	1
Ophthalmia										
Neonatorum	3	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	4	—	—	2	5	5	2
Encephalitis										
Lethargica	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro										
Spinal Fever	1	3	6	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

## 2. TUBERCULOSIS

Sixteen new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year but there were no notifications in respect of non-pulmonary cases. The corresponding figures for 1952 were 17 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary.

During 1953 there were 4 deaths from the pulmonary form of the disease but none from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The corresponding figures for 1952 were 3 deaths from pulmonary and 1 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Table VIII shows the number of Tuberculosis cases notified and number of deaths each year since 1930, and Table IX gives a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis Register during 1953.



TABLE VIII

Year	Number of Primary Notifications received		Deaths		Death Rate per 10,000 of Population	
	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary
1930	30	3	24	3	12.1	1.5
1931	19	8	11	2	5.4	0.9
1932	20	3	11	2	5.3	0.9
1933	24	1	17	1	8.3	0.4
1934	15	3	17	1	8.3	0.4
1935	12	7	9	2	4.3	0.9
1936	12	5	10	1	4.8	0.4
1937	12	9	13	—	6.2	—
1938	12	4	8	2	3.8	0.9
1939	13	4	13	2	6.2	0.9
1940	11	1	11	1	5.3	0.4
1941	9	3	7	1	3.5	0.5
1942	15	4	8	—	4.0	—
1943	9	4	8	3	4.2	1.5
1944	14	3	7	1	3.7	0.5
1945	22	2	7	1	3.0	0.5
1946	14	2	9	1	4.0	0.4
1947	19	5	6	2	2.8	0.9
1948	19	6	8	1	3.5	0.4
1949	20	3	10	2	4.5	0.9
1950	18	6	1	1	0.4	0.4
1951	15	2	3	—	1.3	—
1952	17	1	3	1	1.3	0.4
1953	16	—	4	—	1.8	—

From Table VIII it will once again be seen that though there has been considerable reduction, especially in the last four years, in the death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, there has not been a corresponding reduction in the number of new cases notified each year. In comparison with the five years immediately pre-war there has in recent years actually been an increase in notifications of new cases. Some of this increase may no doubt be due to increased facilities in later years for better diagnosis (e.g. increased use of X-Ray) and the more general use of these facilities by the general public. But it is very doubtful if this can fully explain why there has been so little variation during the last ten years in the number of new cases notified each year, and the assumption has to be accepted that though the disease has in recent years become more amenable to treatment, there has been no corresponding lessening in incidence.

Whether the present campaign for B.C.G. vaccination will in time have a beneficial effect remains to be seen. For the present we must rely on ordinary preventive measures. These are (a) finding the patient; (b) finding the source of



his infection and (c) taking measures to prevent an infective patient spreading the disease to others.

In regard to finding the patient, this has become easier in latter years not only through better facilities for diagnosis but also owing to a changed attitude on the part of the public towards the disease. The greater expectation of life and of recovery which has resulted from more active and newer forms of treatment has removed from the public mind the previous dread of this disease and patients submit themselves to examination now more readily than in the past.

Finding the source of the infection is, however, not always easy. Infection in Tuberculosis is not an isolated act such as is usual in, for example, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Diphtheria or Influenza. In Tuberculosis the infection is usually the result of exposure to an infective agent over a period of time. This may occur either at work or in the home. Undoubtedly working or living under unhealthy conditions increases the risk of infection but the infecting Tubercle Bacilli must come either directly or indirectly from another patient. It is for this reason that the examination of family or other close contacts in the search for a missed case becomes so important.

As for measures to prevent the patient spreading the disease this is a matter on which every patient should know the basic principles, the most important of which is care of the sputum, e.g. use of the sputum flask and proper disposal of its contents, the use of a handkerchief when coughing and disinfection of same before washing, avoidance of spitting, etc. Such patients should also have as a minimum, a separate bed—preferably a separate room. Scrupulous cleanliness should also be at all times observed both in respect of their person and their clothing. Not all patients with pulmonary tuberculosis have, however, at all times an infective spit. Frequently after treatment the spit becomes non-infective and unless the lung lesion breaks down or a new lesion develops, such patients may be non-infective over a long period. The danger in such cases is, however, the possibility of the sputum becoming infective and for that reason constant supervision under the Chest Physician is very necessary. It must be remembered, however, that though the patient with Pulmonary Tuberculosis is always a possible source of infection to others many cases can still lead normal and useful lives. Provided the patient himself takes all the necessary precautions to avoid infecting others, pro-

vided conditions at home or at work are maintained at a high sanitary level especially in regard to overcrowding and cleanliness, the risk of spreading infection can be reduced to a minimum. Special care must, of course, be taken in regard to contact with specially susceptible classes, e.g. children and adolescents.

I am indebted to Dr. Owen Clarke, M.D., M.R.C.P., Consultant Chest Physician of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, for the following particulars regarding patients from the Sittingbourne area, who received institutional treatment during 1953 :—

Institution						Patients
Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1
Grove Park Hospital, London .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3
Lenham Sanatorium, nr. Maidstone .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1
Keycol Sanatorium, nr. Sittingbourne .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3
Grosvenor Sanatorium, Ashford, Kent .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2
Preston Hall Hospital, Maidstone .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1
Royal Sea Bathing, Margate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2
TOTAL .. .. .					..	13

This indicates that 7% of the patients on the Tuberculosis Register were admitted to Hospital or Sanatoria for treatment during the year. The figure for 1952 was 11%.

TABLE IX  
Summary of Tuberculosis Register

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
On Register on 1st January, 1953	140	31	171
Notified as " new " cases ..	16	—	16
Transferred to District .. ..	3	—	3
Restored to Register .. ..	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	159	31	190
Died .. .. .	6	—	6*
Recovered .. .. .	—	1	1
Removed from District .. ..	1	—	1
Diagnosis Changed .. ..	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	7	1	8
Balance remaining on Register on 31st December, 1953 .. ..	152	30	182

\* This figure refers to patients on the Tuberculosis Register who have died—not necessarily from Tuberculosis.

A summary of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register for the area at the end of 1953 is shown in Table IX. There has over a period of years been a gradual increase in the numbers on the Register. That is what might be expected. Not only are notifications exceeding deaths each year but the great advances made in treatment during recent years has increased considerably the expectation of life of these patients.

The local Tuberculosis Care Committee has continued with its valued and necessary assistance in the care of patients in the District, and much good and useful work has once again been carried out during the year.

This Voluntary Service is particularly designed to meet the social needs of patients and their relatives, particularly in removing the causes of anxiety and to give help that cannot be provided from official funds. We are very fortunate to have in Sittingbourne a very live and efficient Care Committee, whose Members are exceptionally keen and most hard working in their endeavours to ensure that everything possible is done to relieve the sufferings of, and to bring relief to, the patients under their care.

### 3. VENEREAL DISEASES

The Medical Officer in charge of the Special Clinic at Rochester has very kindly supplied the following information regarding the cases and numbers of attendances from this district during the year. These are as follows :—

Disease				Males	Females	Total
Syphilis	..	..	..	— ( 2)	2 (—)	2 ( 2)*
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	1 (—)	1 (—)	2 (—)
Non-Venereal	(Genital	Lesions)		4 ( 3)	3 ( 2)	7 ( 5)
TOTAL				5 ( 5)	6 ( 2)	11 ( 7)

The above refer to new cases during the year.

The total number of patients under treatment, both old and new, from this district during 1953, was 61, as compared with 14 in 1952.

The total number of attendances was 262 as compared with 191 in 1952, 308 in 1951 and 424 in 1950.

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.



## 4. VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS

### (a) **Diphtheria Immunisation**

From the figures kindly supplied to me by the County Medical Officer of Health, it is estimated that 51.7% of children aged 0-4 years (inclusive) had been protected against Diphtheria by immunisation. The corresponding percentages for 1952, 1951 and 1950 were 58.2%, 57.6% and 55.7%.

From these figures it would appear that though there was an increase during the years 1951 and 1952, there has been a gradual falling off in the number of children immunised during the early years of life when protection against this disease is so important. The percentage of such children immunised in this area is still far below the figure of 75% which is considered the minimum for reasonable safety.

During the year under review 275 primary inoculations and 314 reinforcing inoculations were carried out, as compared with 268 and 175 respectively in 1952, 260 and 164 respectively in 1951 and 307 and 76 respectively in 1950.

### (b) **Vaccination against Smallpox**

The returns received from the County Medical Officer show that 224 primary vaccinations and 23 re-vaccinations were carried out during the year as against 217 and 38 respectively in 1952, 251 and 58 respectively in 1951 and 201 and 28 respectively in 1950. Of the primary vaccinations 192 were infants less than 2 years of age as compared with 174 in 1952. It is considered that these figures are still too low for safety.



## Section IV

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

#### 1. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Local Authority Health Services under the National Health Service Act are provided and administered by the Kent County Council as the Local Health Authority. These Services include the Care of Mothers and Young Children; the provision of Midwives; Health Visiting and Home Nursing; Vaccination and Immunisation; Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care and Domestic Help Services. Mental Welfare is provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

The various Clinics in connection with these Services have, by arrangement with the County Council, continued to be held during the year at the Local Council's Health Department offices at Johnson House. The following list shows the dates and times of these Clinics.

Clinics and Sessions	Date	Time
Infant Welfare	Tuesday and Thursday	2 - 4 p.m.
Immunisation	First Monday in each Month	2 - 3.15 p.m.
Ante-natal, Post-natal and Family Planning (by appointment)	Friday	10 a.m. to 12 noon
Relaxation Classes (by appointment)	Thursday	10 - 11 a.m.
Mothercraft Classes	Thursday	11 a.m. to 12 noon
Orthopaedic	Tuesday Friday	10 a.m. to 12 noon 2 - 4.30 p.m.
*Mental Health (by appointment)	Thursday	10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Domestic Help	Wednesday	2 - 4 p.m.
Pathologist	Wednesday	2.30 - 4 p.m.

(Note : Vaccinations are given at the Infant Welfare Clinic, if required).

Footnote:—\* This Clinic moved to 13, South Road, Faversham, in January, 1954, and Sessions are held at that address on Thursday evenings at 5 o'clock.

## 2. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

(a) The County Medical Officer has once again been good enough to provide me with a copy of the Annual Report on the School Health Services in the district during 1953, from which the following are interesting extracts :—

(i) Number of Children inspected

(i)	(Periodic inspections)	...	...	1,706	(1,521)*
(ii)	Number found requiring treatment	...	...	176	( 152)
(iii)	Percentage	...	...	10.3%	( 9.9%)
(iv)	Frequency of main defects found :—				
	Orthopaedic defects	...	...	10.2%	(21.7%)
	Eyes	...	...	57.9%	(49.3%)
	Nose and Throat	...	...	11.3%	( 5.2%)
	Developmental (including				
	hernia)			1.7%	( 0.6%)
	Ears	...	...	2.9%	( 4.6%)

(b) The classification of children inspected in accordance with their general condition is as follows :—

	Number Inspected	A (Good)	B (Fair)	C (Poor)
Entrants . . . . .	528	39.4% (43.2%)	58.0% (54.8%)	2.6% (2.0%)
Second Age Group ..	324	46.0% (50.8%)	52.2% (48.2%)	1.8% (1.0%)
Third Age Group ..	384	46.3% (38.1%)	52.1% (60.7%)	1.6% (1.2%)
Other Periodic Inspections . . . . .	470	53.8% (46.0%)	44.7% (53.4%)	1.5% (0.6%)
	1,706	46.2% (44.3%)	51.9% (54.4%)	1.9% (1.3%)

There has again been a slight increase in the percentage of children found at periodic inspections to require treatment (from 6.8% in 1951, and 9.9% in 1952, to 10.3% in 1953) in spite of the continued improvement in the general nutritional standard of the children. Those classified as being of good nutritional standard have also increased from 41% in 1951, and 44.3% in 1952 to 46.2% in the year under review. On the other hand, there was a slight increase shown in the number classified of poor nutritional standard from 1.3% in 1952 to 1.9% in 1953, but this percentage is still much below that for 1951 when 3.3% were shown under this classification.

The main defects have once again been in connection with Eye diseases, 57.9% as compared with 49.3% in 1952, and there has been a rather disturbing increase in the figure for Nose and Throat diseases, 11.3% as against 5.2% in the previous year.

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

There was, however, a very welcome and very large drop in the numbers of Orthopaedic defects, there being only 10.2% as against 21.7% in 1952 and 19.3% in 1951.

(c) The total number of attendances at the minor ailment Clinics was 317, as compared with 518 in 1952, and 204 defects, as compared with 217 defects in 1952, were treated or under treatment during the year. The majority of conditions treated were as follows :—

Minor injuries (including bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	...	...	75.9%	(77.4%)*
Skin conditions	...	...	15.6%	(17.0%)
Eye diseases	...	...	7.8%	( 4.6%)
Ear conditions	...	...	0.4%	( 0.8%)

(d) Dental Inspections and treatment figures are as follows :—

Number inspected by Dental Officers	...	3,587	(1,957)
Number found requiring treatment	...	1,727	(1,397)
Percentage	...	48.1%	(71.3%)
Number actually treated	...	737	( 898)
Percentage	...	20.5%	(45.8%)

#### (e) Infestation with Vermin

The following information on examinations and treatment in connection with infestation with vermin in this area has also been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer.

(i) Total number of examinations in the Schools by the School Nurses or other authorised persons	...	7,241	(7,128)*
(ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	...	63	( 18)
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944)	...	21	( 6)

### 3. LABORATORY SERVICES

The Pathologist's Clinic supplied by the Kent County Council at Johnson House, has been continued during the year.

This Service is still organised and the appointments made by the Staff of the local Health Department and the

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.



number of patients attending during the year has increased considerably, i.e. 797 as compared with 601 in 1952, an increase of 196 or 32.7%, which figures surely speak for themselves as to the usefulness of, and the need for, this particular Clinic in this Area.

The following Table shows the number of patients who have attended the Clinic each year for the six years since its inception in 1948.

TABLE X

Year					No. of Patients Attending
1948	...	...	...	...	235
1949	...	...	...	...	372
1950	...	...	...	...	432
1951	...	...	...	...	602
1952	...	...	...	...	601
1953	...	...	...	...	797

There continues to be very high attendances at each Session of this Clinic during 1954, and the total number of patients attending during the first nine months of the current year was 609.

#### 4. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. (Section 50).

One case was dealt with during the year following a notification from the neighbours that a woman had been found dead. The deceased was without relatives and, therefore, the arrangements for the funeral were carried out under the authority of the above-named Act and Section.

#### 5. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. (Section 47).

As amended by National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. (Section 1).

During the year the condition of one aged person who was living alone was under consideration by the Department. The aged person was unwilling to voluntarily seek residential accommodation under the County Council and because of the conditions under which she was living it was necessary to obtain a Magistrate's Order under the Act for the removal of the person concerned to suitable hospital accommodation.



## 6. OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE

The Sittingbourne Old People's Welfare Committee continue to carry out much good work in connection with the welfare of old people, particularly in the case of the housebound persons. The Visitors pay periodic visits to the homes of the old people and help them with their little personal problems and generally brighten up their otherwise solitary existences.

During the year, a further extension of the work of the Old People's Welfare Committee came into operation, viz. the Night-Sitting Service. The Service is designed to give relief to relatives of old people who have been bed-ridden for a long time, by providing a night-sitter occasionally to enable the relative to obtain a full night's sleep and thus assist in the extremely difficult problems which arise in such cases.

The two Old People's Clubs which exist in the Town, continue to meet regularly at convenient meeting places at which there is organised and provided many forms of entertainment for the benefit of those old people.

## Section V

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. WATER SUPPLY

The water supply for the Urban District is derived from two sources, i.e. the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District water undertaking and the Mid-Kent Water Company. The supply has been adequate both in quantity and quality. Thirty-eight samples were submitted for examination. All were satisfactory.

#### 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) No significant alteration has been made in the Council's sewerage system during the year.

(b) The Council's Consultant has reported upon the present sewage disposal works, together with suggestions for effecting an improvement in the treatment at the works. The matter is still under discussion and no final conclusions have been reached.

(c) The abolition of cesspools continued during the year and the numbers are gradually being reduced to minor proportion.

(d) Successful treatments against rats in the sewers were carried out during the year. The incidence of infestation was not heavy but indicated that a continuation of this work was necessary to maintain adequate control.

#### 3. MILTON CREEK

During the year the Kent River Board reported upon the investigation into the pollution of the Creek. As a result a Conference was called to which all interested parties were invited. The Meeting was held in July when a general discussion took place. In order to allow one of the larger industrial concerns time to submit proposals for dealing with their part of the problem, it was decided to call a further Meeting. Such further Meeting has not yet taken place.

#### 4. SCAVENGING

(a) The administration of the Council's refuse collection and disposal service is under the Engineer and Surveyor. Disposal is by means of tipping.

Although treatment is carried out to reduce flies on the tip, nevertheless, in hot weather, there is very considerable infestation. As mentioned in previous reports the difficulty in fly control has probably been due to the excessive depth and area of face used for tipping. Steps have now been taken to cut down the area of the tipping face and it is considered that by this means some improvement will be effected. It would, however, be better from all points of view if proper controlled tipping was instituted.

(b) It is regrettable that year after year attention has to be directed to the continued habit of some of the townspeople who persistently deposit rubbish of all kinds on any vacant plot of land in the town, apparently without thought to the well being of their fellow Citizens, or to the additional burden of expense necessitated by their thoughtless habits.

## 5. SCHOOL SANITATION

The sanitary accommodation provided is maintained in a satisfactory manner.

The School kitchens and canteens were visited during the year and the standard of hygiene was good.

## 6. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The conveniences provided were generally maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

During the year the Council agreed to provide a wash-basin in each public convenience, which would be available for hand washing purposes, free of charge.

## 7. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

(a) The Swimming Baths continue to be enjoyed by large numbers of bathers.

(b) The standard of cleanliness at the Baths appeared to be of a high order. The quality of the water was generally maintained to a satisfactory standard.

(c) Consideration was given by the Council to the points mentioned in the 1952 Annual Report, and active steps are being taken to secure improvements to the Chlorination plant, the Chemical Discharge Tanks and Laundry facilities.

## 8. MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION

Mortuary facilities are still provided in the war-time temporary Mortuary at the Sittingbourne Cemetery. Plans

have now been approved for the adaptation of the existing Mortuary which will ensure that proper and satisfactory facilities are available when the scheme is carried out.

The duties of washing and preparing bodies continues to be carried out by a local firm of Undertakers.

The premises, so far as general hygiene is concerned, are maintained in a satisfactory manner.

#### 9. SERVICE OF NOTICES REQUIRING THE EXECUTION OF WORKS OR THE ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

- (a) 547 informal notices served (449)\*
- (b) 114 statutory notices served (85)
- (c) 565 informal notices complied with (364)
- (d) 101 statutory notices complied with (69)

#### 10. VISITS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

The number of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year is shown in Appendix "D."

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.



## Section VI

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### 1. MILK SUPPLY

The following are the details of registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

(a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

54 Milk Distributors and 7 Dairies were registered under the above Regulations.

(b) Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

During the year, 46 licences were issued under the above Regulations, analysed as follows :—

Sterilised (Dealers')	...	...	...	37
Pasteurised (Dealers')	...	...	...	7
Pasteurised (Dealers' Supplemen- tary)	...	...	...	2

(c) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

During the year, 4 licences were issued under the above Regulations, analysed as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested (Dealers')	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested (Dealers' Supple- mentary)	...	...	...	2

(d) Examination of Milk Supplies.

(i) 20 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological or other prescribed examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Maidstone.

The following Table shows details of the results obtained :—

TABLE XI

Designation	No. of Samples	Result	
		Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory
Ordinary Milk .. ..	— ( 5 )	— ( 4 )	— ( 1 )*
Pasteurised and Heat-Treated Milks .. ..	15 (15)	15 (13)	— ( 2 )
Tuberculin Tested Milks ..	4 ( 4 )	2 ( 3 )	2 ( 1 )
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk .. ..	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
TOTALS ..	20 (24)	18 (20)	2 ( 4 )

(ii) 2 samples of raw milk were submitted for biological examination during the year. Both samples were free from Tubercle infection.

(iii) There was a marked reduction in the number of different sources of supply of milk retailed in the Town, principally due to the increasing use made of milk obtained from a large processing plant who supply pasteurised milk already bottled.

The effect of this has been to reduce the handling of bulk milk in the local dairies, and the majority of dairymen have now become purely distributors of milk in the sealed bottles as delivered by the wholesaler.

## 2. MEAT

(i) Four hundred and five visits were paid to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, East Street, Sittingbourne, during the year.

One hundred per cent inspection of all animals presented for slaughter was maintained throughout the year. This work continued to involve the Sanitary Inspectors in late night and Sunday work.

(ii) In order to assist your Sanitary Inspectors in diagnosis and to confirm diagnosis, 6 specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Maidstone. The reports from the Laboratory were helpful in confirming the Sanitary Inspectors' judgment.

(iii) Slaughtering continued during the year in the obsolete premises at present used as a Slaughterhouse. Personal washing facilities were provided by the provision

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

of a sink and water heating unit. This improvement which was long overdue was appreciated by the slaughtering staff and the Inspectors.

(iv) All foodstuffs condemned in the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in operation in the Town, is dyed green and disposed of under a guarantee to a firm of bi-product manufacturers. No difficulty with regard to disposal of this material was experienced during the year. In the case of meat condemned in Butchers' Shops the arrangements are for the meat to be taken to the central Slaughterhouse where it is dealt with in the manner already stated.

Other foodstuffs condemned in Food Shops, such as canned foods and so on, are collected by the transport of the Department and disposed of at the Tip under supervision of this Department, suitable safeguards being taken to prevent the possibility of the use of any of the condemned foodstuffs by unauthorised persons.

(v) Table XII shows the details of the animals slaughtered, together with the numbers affected with disease.

TABLE XII

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed .....	1160	183	236	3286	1086	5951
Number Inspected ....	1160	183	236	3286	1086	5951
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS						
Whole carcasses con- demned .. ..	—	1	—	20	14	35
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	401	103	1	170	153	828
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ..	34.5	56.8	0.4	5.7	15.3	(15.4)* 14.5
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole Carcasses con- demned .. ..	5	2	1	—	1	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	67	28	1	—	11	107
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	6.2	16.3	0.8	—	1.1	(3.0)* 1.9

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.



### 3. OTHER FOODSTUFFS EXAMINED

(i) The details of foodstuffs of all types condemned during the year are shown in Appendix "C."

(ii) During the year 3 samples of food were submitted for examination as detailed below :—

1 sample of Crystals for chemical examination.

2 samples of Anchovy Paste for metallic contamination.

The reports received from the County Analyst certified that the samples after examination were found to be satisfactory.

### 4. SHELLFISH

No case of illness attributable to shellfish was notified during the year. The public are reminded that the purchase of shellfish from any dealers other than reputable and well-established firms, involve serious risks to themselves.

### 5. FISH FRYING

(i) Eight fish frying establishments are in operation in the area.

(ii) Seventeen visits of inspection were made during the year.

(iii) The standard of hygiene in this particular food trade continues to be high.

### 6. ICE CREAM

(i) The number of premises registered for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream are :—

Sale and storage of Ice Cream	...	81	(89)*
Storage of Ice Cream	...	2	( 3)
Manufacture of Ice Cream	...	9	(11)

(ii) 23 samples of ice cream were submitted for examination by the Provisional Modified Methylene Blue Reductase Test, with the following results :—

		1953	1952
Grade I	...	17 (73.9%)	24 (66.6%)
Grade II	...	1 ( 4.3%)	9 (25.0%)
Grade III	...	—	2 ( 5.5%)
Grade IV	...	5 (21.7%)	1 ( 2.7%)

### 7. BAKEHOUSES

(i) Eight bakehouses are registered and in operation in the area.

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(ii) Twenty-one visits of inspection were made during the year.

## 8. RESTAURANT KITCHENS

(i) The number of restaurant kitchens (including works canteens and school kitchens) in the area is 34.

(ii) The premises on the whole are conducted in a satisfactory manner.

## 9. PUBLIC HOUSES

A survey of all licensed premises in the district was carried out during 1952, mainly with a view to ascertaining the adequacy of washing facilities provided for glasses.

The total number of public houses inspected was 50 and the position was found to be as follows :—

(a) Number without any water supply at bar ...	14
(b) Number with cold water supply only ...	9
(c) Number without main drainage to sink in bar ... ..	26

As three of the premises in category (a) were not included in the 26 premises in category (c), it meant that 29 of the 50 public houses were lacking the means to provide even a constant change of cold water for glass washing purposes without considerable trouble.

As a result of the Survey and action taken, the following works have been executed :—

(a) Premises provided with supply of hot and cold water at bar sink ... ..	13
(b) Premises provided with hot water at bar sink ... ..	7
(c) Bar sinks properly trapped and connected to mains ... ..	22

In addition to the above works, six premises have been equipped with a more hygienic type of sink, eight minor improvements have been made to cellars and sanitary accommodation and four major improvements to sanitary accommodation.

This means that all the public houses in the district now have a constant supply of hot and cold water and a properly drained sink in the bar, with the exception of four premises.

Of these remaining public houses, negotiations are in progress to secure the necessary improvements in three cases and an agreement has been reached regarding the fourth owing to the temporary nature of the licence.

#### 10. FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

(i) Twenty premises are registered for the manufacture of sausage and preserved foods.

(ii) The premises are generally maintained in a satisfactory manner. It is pleasing to note that the general standard of hygiene has improved and that in the majority of cases the owners and employees display a genuine desire to co-operate in achieving the highest standards possible.

#### 11. GENERAL HYGIENE IN FOOD PREMISES

Notices requesting customers in the interest of hygiene, to refrain from taking dogs into food premises continue to be displayed.

In the majority of cases the personnel concerned are anxious to achieve high standards of hygiene. The position has been improved by a gradual improvement in the layout of premises and provision of modern equipment.

It should be noted, however, that a number of small shop-keepers, because of limitation of space and lack of manpower, appear to find it very difficult to constantly maintain the standards demanded. In cases where standards are poor, much could be done by the public themselves. It appears to be obvious that if trade falls off because of poor hygienic standards the trader will himself be more anxious to remedy conditions.

#### 12. DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS

These details are shown in Appendix "D."

#### 13. THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA

These details are shown in Appendix "F."

#### 14. SAMPLES TAKEN BY THE FOOD AND DRUGS AUTHORITY

By courtesy of the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, the following detail of samples of food taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in Sittingbourne and Milton are included :—



Article	No. of Samples
Aspirin Tablets .. .. .	1
Baked Beans and Pork Sausage .. .. .	1
Baking Powder .. .. .	1
Basilicon or Resin Ointment .. .. .	1
Beans and Grilled Sausages .. .. .	1
Camphor Ice B.P.C. .. .. .	1
Cheese Spread .. .. .	1
Chlorophyll Tablets .. .. .	1
Choc-O-Bear Lolly .. .. .	1
Corned Beef .. .. .	1
Custard Powder .. .. .	1
Epsom Salts Tablets .. .. .	1
Eucalyptus Oil B.P. .. .. .	1
Flake Tapioca .. .. .	1
Fruit Lolly .. .. .	1
Gin .. .. .	2
Glycerine, Lemon and Ipecacuanha Balsam .. .. .	1
Ground White Pepper .. .. .	1
Iced Lolly .. .. .	5
Iodine .. .. .	1
Jelly .. .. .	1
Jet Lollie .. .. .	1
Lemon Curd .. .. .	1
Marmalade .. .. .	1
Marmalade, Special Fruit Standard .. .. .	1
Marzipan .. .. .	1
Meat Pies .. .. .	1
Milk .. .. .	38
Milk Lollies .. .. .	1
Oil of Peppermint Tablets B.P. .. .. .	1
Orangeade .. .. .	1
Orange Curd .. .. .	1
Pineapple Curd .. .. .	1
Pork Sausage Meat .. .. .	1
Pork Sausages .. .. .	2
Rabbit Casserole .. .. .	1
Salmon Spread .. .. .	1
Scotch Cake .. .. .	1
Sponge Mixture .. .. .	1
Syrup of Figs .. .. .	1
Tinned Cambridge Sausages .. .. .	1
Veal and Ham Pies .. .. .	1
Whisky .. .. .	1
TOTAL .. .. .	86

## SUMMARY

Milks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Drugs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Spirits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other Samples	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
								<hr/>
								86
								<hr/>

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Sample of	Analysis	Action Taken
Milk, Tuber- culin Tested	Contained 11.6% added water.	As a result of investigations concerning machine milking apparatus no action was taken.
Milk, Pasteurised	Contained 17% added water.	No Action because of death of retailer.
Hot Milk	Contained 16% added water. 10% deficient in fat.	} Proceedings taken. Fined £2 and £3 3s. 0d. costs.
Hot Milk	Contained 19% added water.	
Milk, Pastenrised	10% deficient in fat.	No action. Further samples satisfactory.

## Section VII

### DISINFECTION, DISINFESTATION AND RODENT CONTROL

#### 1. DISINFECTION

(i) Seventy-seven rooms at 48 premises were disinfected on account of infectious disease during the year.

Other disinfections were also carried out at the Sittingbourne Police Station, on 4 occasions, when 5 cells and the main hall were treated on account of vermin. The usual treatments of slippers (on 2 occasions) at Milton Butts School were continued during the year.

(ii) All library books found at premises where a case of notifiable disease has occurred are disinfected by formaldehyde before being returned to circulation.

(iii) The steam disinfector at the Milton Hospital continues to be used for Council purposes by the courtesy of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, and on one occasion during the year an application was received from the Officer Commanding, Territorial Drill Hall, Sittingbourne, for certain Army clothing to be treated. The usual assistance and co-operation was received from the Administrator of the Hospital and his Staff and the necessary steam disinfection was carried out.

#### 2. DISINFESTATION

(i) The following tables indicate the work carried out during the year :—

##### (a) **Bed Bugs**

			Infestations	
			Premises	Rooms
Council Houses	...	...	—	—
Other Houses	...	...	14	30
			—	—
Totals	...	...	14	30
			—	—

##### (b) **Fleas**

Council Houses	...	...	—	—
Other Houses	...	...	16	52
Other Premises	...	...	1	2
			—	—
Totals	...	...	17	54
			—	—



### (c) Other Insect Pests

(Ants, Beetles and Flies)

Council Houses	...	...	6	19
Other Houses	...	...	12	22
Other Premises	...	...	—	—
			—	—
Totals	...		18	41
			—	—

(ii) Other disinfestations carried out during the year were as follows :—

(a) The oak beams in 2 houses at Milton Regis were treated on 2 occasions on account of death watch beetle.

(b) The Swimming Bath was treated on 2 occasions on account of beetles.

(c) A manure dump at King George's Field was treated on account of flies.

(d) Waste ground in Cockleshell Walk, Sittingbourne, was treated on account of an infestation of caterpillars. The walls and front of houses in the locality were also treated.

(e) Uniforms at the Civil Defence Headquarters in Burley Road, Sittingbourne, were treated on account of moths.

(iii) In addition 17 wasps' and bees' nests were dealt with. The usual anti-mosquito measures were carried out in the static water tanks and ponds.

(iv) The main insecticides used during the year were 5% D.D.T. in Kerosene and Gammexane.

### 3. RODENT CONTROL

(i) The Council employ one part-time Rodent Operator.

(ii) The following table gives details of the work carried out during the year :—

TABLE XIII

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including business premises)	Total
i. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District.	18 (17)	6536 (6378)	12 (76)	501 (497)	7049 (6968)*
ii. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1953 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey or otherwise.	1 (2)	137 (106)	2 (6)	27 (40)	167 (154)
	9 (4)	792 (198)	8 (15)	67 (26)	876 (243)
iii. Number of properties (under ii) found to be infested by rats.	Major 5 (4)	— (—)	1 (5)	1 (8)	7 (17)
	Minor 1 (1)	120 (134)	4 (5)	22 (25)	147 (165)
iv. Number of properties inspected (see Section ii) which were found to be seriously infested by mice.	— (1)	29 (70)	— (—)	12 (17)	41 (88)
v. Number of infested properties (see Sections iii and iv) treated by the Local Authority.	6 (6)	149 (204)	5 (10)	35 (50)	195 (270)

(iii) The number of visits made (including routine survey) during the year, was 2,284 as against 2,688 in the previous year.

(iv) The estimated number of Rats killed by poisons was 801 as against 1,293 in 1952. In addition, 15 rats and 2 mice were killed by trapping as compared with 45 and 29 respectively in the previous year.

(v) Maintenance treatment of the Council's sewerage system was continued during the year. Once again the results indicated that the degree of infestation was not heavy but nevertheless judged by the number of cases of infestation which can be directly traced to drainage defects, it is essential that the work continues on a systematic basis.

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

## Section VIII

### HOUSING

#### 1. INSPECTIONS

The number and character of inspections carried out in connection with housing is as follows :—

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected during the year for housing defects ... ..	520	( 433)*
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations ... ..	38	( 18)
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	36	( 23)
(d) Number of houses found defective in some essential particular ...	466	( 449)
(e) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice ... ..	565	( 364)
(f) Reinspections of houses ... ..	2,638	(2,889)
(g) Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—		
(i) Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	—	( —)
(ii) Proceedings under Public Health Act ... ..	114	( 85)
(iii) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	—	( —)
(iv) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	—	( —)
(v) Action under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		

No. of areas represented as unfit	No. of dwellings in the areas	No. of dwellings demolished during the year
3 (2)	34 (13)	7 (4)

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.



## 2. PROVISION OF HOUSES

The following Table shows the number of houses built each year since the end of the War :—

TABLE XIV

Year	Council Houses		Police Houses	Private Enterprise	War destroyed houses re-built	Total
	Temporary	Permanent				
1946	50	33	—	2	—	85
1947	—	57	—	5	—	62
1948	—	44	—	3	2	49
1949	—	70	—	3	8	81
1950	—	72	—	7	8	87
1951	—	82	—	8	4	94
1952	—	140	2	2	—	144
1953	—	118	—	3	—	121
Totals	50	616	2	33	22	723

## 3. REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF HOUSES

The work of attempting to maintain existing houses in a weatherproof and habitable condition has continued to be difficult during the year. It is quite clear that the effect of the Rent Restriction Acts and the continued high level of building costs is having a serious effect on the general standard of housing in the Town.

Alongside the drive to eradicate unfit houses, there ought to be a vigorous effort to repair, maintain and improve housing accommodation which has not yet become completely unfit.

## 4. REHOUSING

(i) During the year it was found possible to provide housing accommodation for 200 families, as follows :—

- (a) 12 families re-housed in existing temporary houses (11)\*
- (b) 31 families re-housed in pre-war Council houses (21)
- (c) 141 families re-housed in post-war Council houses (173)
- (d) 16 families re-housed in privately owned houses by arrangement with owner's consent (21).

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(ii) In addition to the above-mentioned families re-housed by the Council, it is known that 27 applicants found accommodation privately and that 9 further applicants were re-housed by other Authorities.

## 5. HOUSING APPLICATIONS

The following Table shows the details of the total number of applicants in the various categories on the Council's Housing List at the 31st December, 1953 :—

TABLE XV

1. Number of Applicants on "Live List" ...	900
2. Number of "Late Applications" ...	275
Total Number of Applicants ...	<u>1,175</u>

Table XVI shows the various classes into which the applicants on the "Live List" fall :—

TABLE XVI

	No.	%
1. Applicants living and working outside Sitting-bourne ...	48	5.3
2. Single Applicants ...	20	2.2
3. Applicants who are tenants of houses within the Urban District ...	200	22.2
4. Applicants who are tenants of houses outside the Urban District ...	140	15.5
5. Applicants living outside but working within the Urban District ...	66	7.3
6. Applicants living in rooms as sub-tenants or lodgers within the Urban District ...	426	47.3
Total ...	<u>900</u>	

## 6. COMMON LODGING HOUSE

One Common Lodging House is registered, the accommodation available being 30 beds.

The premises were managed in a reasonably satisfactory manner during the year.

## Section IX

### FACTORY ADMINISTRATION

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(i) Number of Factories on Register :—

(a) Factories (Mechanical Power)	...	99
(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power)	...	11
(c) Other Premises	... ..	2

(ii) Number of Inspections :—

(a) Factories (Mechanical Power)	...	150
(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power)	...	5
(c) Other Premises	... ..	2

(iii) Number of Written Notices :—

(a) Factories (Mechanical Power)	...	7
(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power)	...	—

(iv) Cases in which defects were found :—

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.) ..	—	1	—	1
Overcrowding (S.2.) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.) ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.) :—				
(a) insufficient .. ..	4	2	—	1
(b) unsuitable or defective ..	11	10	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	15	13	—	2



## APPENDIX " A "

### RAINFALL

Recorded at Highsted Waterworks

			Rainfall (inches)					
Month			1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
January	...	...	3.61	1.37	2.00	2.98	2.31	.81
February	...	...	1.75	1.22	4.49	6.66	.96	.97
March	...	...	.87	.80	.71	3.53	3.89	.19
April	...	...	1.71	1.50	2.16	2.27	.98	1.74
May	...	...	1.81	1.86	1.99	2.17	.90	2.43
June	...	...	3.27	.76	1.06	1.67	1.19	2.86
July	...	...	1.62	.42	2.32	2.05	.71	2.52
August	...	...	2.66	.52	2.38	4.72	3.10	1.60
September	...	...	1.59	1.81	2.11	3.84	4.04	3.08
October	...	...	1.53	6.86	.20	1.08	2.23	2.13
November	...	...	1.50	3.37	5.45	3.81	4.38	1.36
December	...	...	3.42	1.56	2.33	2.41	2.57	.66
Total Rainfall			<u>25.34</u>	<u>22.05</u>	<u>27.20</u>	<u>37.19</u>	<u>27.26</u>	<u>20.35</u>

## APPENDIX " B "

### TEMPERATURES

Recorded at Johnson House, Sittingbourne

(Note :—These Recordings commenced only on  
1st October, 1953)

		Maximum	Minimum
October	...	66°	34°
November	...	62°	31°
December	...	62°	30°

# APPENDIX "C"

## DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS OF ALL TYPES CONDEMNED DURING 1953

(a) Condemned at Slaughterhouse				lbs.	lbs.
5 Cattle (excluding Cows) ..	Generalised Tuberculosis ..			1,879	
2 Cows .. ..	Ditto. .. ..			941	
1 Cow .. ..	Extensive Bruising and				
	Oedema .. ..			394	
1 Calf .. ..	Congenital Tuberculosis ..			89	
7 Portions of Cattle ..	Localised Tuberculosis ..			1,068	
3 Portions of Cattle ..	Oedema .. ..			119	
4 Portions of Cattle ..	Bruising .. ..			78	
2 Portions of Cattle ..	Bruising and Fracture ..			254	
1 Portion of Cattle ..	Inflammation of Joint ..			3	
1 Portion of Cattle ..	Fat Necrosis .. ..			76	
1 Portion of Cattle ..	Actino .. ..			4	
1 Portion of Cattle ..	Deformity .. ..			13	
1 Portion of Cattle ..	Abscesses .. ..			10	
14 Sheep .. ..	Emaciation and Oedema ..			496	
2 Sheep .. ..	Bruising and Oedema ..			126	
1 Sheep .. ..	Poisoned .. ..			56	
1 Sheep .. ..	Jaundice .. ..			70	
1 Ewe .. ..	Moribund .. ..			63	
1 Ram .. ..	Nephritis, Oedema and Car-				
	cinoma .. ..			51	
5 Portions of Sheep ..	Oedema .. ..			16	
1 Portion of Sheep ..	Abscess and Oedema ..			6	
4 Portions of Sheep ..	Bruising .. ..			16	
1 Portion of Sheep ..	Fracture and Bruising ..			1	
2 Portions of Sheep ..	Inflammation .. ..			39	
1 Portion of a Lamb ..	Peritonitis .. ..			2	
1 Portion of a Ram ..	Oedema .. ..			6	
5 Pigs .. ..	Swine Erysipelas .. ..			663	
2 Pigs .. ..	Swine Fever .. ..			124	
1 Pig .. ..	Septicaemia .. ..			146	
1 Pig .. ..	Fever and Septicaemia ..			100	
1 Pig .. ..	Pyæmia .. ..			58	
1 Pig .. ..	Multiple Abscesses and				
	Emaciation .. ..			134	
1 Pig .. ..	Multiple Abscesses ..			123	
1 Pig .. ..	Lymphatic Leukaemia ..			88	
1 Pig .. ..	Generalised Tuberculosis ..			64	
1 Pig .. ..	Moribund .. ..			202	
11 Portions of Pig ..	Localised Tuberculosis ..			200	
1 Portion of Pig ..	Swine Erysipelas .. ..			5	
4 Portions of Pig ..	Bruising .. ..			49	
5 Portions of Pig ..	Fracture and Bruising ..			60	
1 Portion of Pig ..	Fracture .. ..			24	
3 Portions of Pig ..	Inflammation .. ..			25	
1 Portion of Pig ..	Cysts .. ..			2	
1 Portion of Sow ..	Bruising .. ..			18	
2 Portions of Sow ..	Fracture and Bruising ..			28	
Edible Offal .. ..				16,386½	24,375½
(b) Condemned in Shops					
Meat .. ..				321½	
Fish .. ..				84	
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs :					
including canned Milk,					
Meat, Fruit, Vegetables,					
Fish, Jam, etc. .. ..				4,846	5,251½
TOTAL LBS. ..					29,627
TOTAL.—13 Tons 4 Cwts. 3 Qrs. 5 Lbs.					
(34 Tons 11 Cwts. 2 Qrs. 17½ Lbs.)*					

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.



## APPENDIX "D"

### DETAILS OF INSPECTION

Inspection of Houses							Inspections
No. of Houses inspected (Public Health and Housing Acts)							
First inspections—not visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	482
No. of Houses reinspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	2638
No. of Houses inspected and recorded (S.5 Housing Act)							38
No. of Premises (other than houses and not mentioned below) in-							
pected for nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	82
							3240
Overcrowding							
No. of dwellings overcrowded	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
No. of overcrowded families	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
							3
Premises							
Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Cinemas and Amusement Places	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dairies and Milkshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Fresh Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Fried fish and chip shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Fruit and vegetable shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Food vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Ice-cream premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	105
Markets	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Milk Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Mortuary	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Offices	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pets shop	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Premises to examine foodstuffs	..	..	..	..	..	..	177
Provision shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	53
Public conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	101
Restaurants and restaurant kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Shops (under Shops Act)	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Shops (reinspections)	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Food Preparing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	405
Smoke Observations	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Stables	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Static Water Tanks	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Swimming Baths	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Systematic inspection of district	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	93
Tips	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Water courses	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
							1317

Rat Infestation (not recorded elsewhere)					
Houses inspected (first inspections)	..	..	..	..	4
Houses inspected (reinspections)	..	..	..	..	11
Other premises (first inspections)	..	..	..	..	3
Other premises (reinspections)	..	..	..	..	25
					<hr/> 43
Enquiries or Visits					
Contractors or Owners interviewed	..	..	..	..	271
Contacts of infectious diseases	..	..	..	..	12
Notifiable diseases	..	..	..	..	33
Other diseases	..	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	482
Office interviews	..	..	..	..	259
Port visits	..	..	..	..	1
Lectures	..	..	..	..	10
Flood relief work	..	..	..	..	729
					<hr/> 1789
Food and Drugs and Other Sampling					
Samples of Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	23
Samples of Swimming Bath Water	..	..	..	..	2
Samples of Water obtained—Bacteriological Examination	..	..	..	..	38
Samples of Water obtained—Chemical Examination	..	..	..	..	9
Samples of Milk obtained, bacteriological	..	..	..	..	20
Samples of Milk obtained, biological	..	..	..	..	2
Samples of Milk Bottles obtained, bacteriological	..	..	..	..	6
Miscellaneous Bacteriological Specimens	..	..	..	..	10
Miscellaneous Chemical Specimens	..	..	..	..	1
					<hr/> 111
Factories					
Factories with mechanical power—Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	18
—Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	121
Factories without mechanical power—Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	3
—Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	6
					<hr/> 148
TOTAL				..	<hr/> 6,651
					<hr/> *(6,580)

Footnote : —\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

## APPENDIX " E "

### NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING 1953

#### Works Executed

							Totals
Shops Act							
Sanitary Conveniences provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Washing facilities provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
							4
Houses							
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Ashbins provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
Brickwork of walls repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Chimneys repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Doors and frames repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Floors renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Grates or Ovens repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Inside plastering repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Outside plastering repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Roofs renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	66
Rain water pipes or gutters renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Staircases repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Walls or ceilings cleansed and redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wash-houses provided or improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Washing coppers provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Water supply provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Water taps or pipes repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Window cords renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Window sashes or frames renewed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Yard paving relaid or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
							520
Drainage							
Bath wastes trapped or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Drains tested, Smoke	..	..	..	..	..	..	123
Drains tested, Chemical	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Drains tested, Water	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Drains re-laid	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Drains repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Drains cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Gullies fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Inspection or Interception chambers provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Inspection or Interception chambers repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Interception traps fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Lavatory basins trapped or waste pipes repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New drains constructed	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Sinks provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Sinks trapped or waste pipes repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
							315
Water Closets							
Additional W.C.'s provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Flushing apparatus provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Flushing apparatus repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Lighting and ventilation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
New pans and traps fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
W.C.'s cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
							90



Urinals								
Additional provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Flushing apparatus fixed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Lighting and ventilation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Walls repaired or made impervious	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
								<hr/> 14
Tents, Vans, Sheds								
Removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops								
Limewashing or cleansing carried out	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Food Shops, Kitchens, and Premises Used for Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Foods								
Cleanliness improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Other repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Storage arrangements improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Washing-up sinks fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Water supply provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
								<hr/> 35
Fried Fish Shops								
Cleansing carried out	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
								<hr/> 2
Houses Let in Lodgings								
Other repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
								<hr/>
TOTAL								985
								<hr/>
*(1,046)								

Footnote :—\* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

## APPENDIX “ F ”

### List showing Number and Type of Food Shops in the Area

	Type								Number
1.	Meat Shops (including Shops carrying out the preparation and/or manufacture of preserved foods) .. .. .								21
2.	Restaurants and Dining Room Kitchens (including Works' Can- teens and School Kitchens) .. .. .								34
3.	Food Shops .. .. .								74
4.	Factories handling Food .. .. .								18
5.	Fried Fish Shops .. .. .								8
6.	Ice Cream Retailers .. .. .								81
7.	Milk—(a) Dealers .. .. .								46
	(b) Dairies .. .. .								7
8.	Public Houses .. .. .								50

## APPENDIX " G "

### **Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector on Flooding in Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District, on the night of 31st January/1st February, 1953**

At 7.45 a.m. on Sunday, 1st February, 1953, I was informed by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Mrs. M. H. Rees, J.P., that considerable flooding had occurred in the District.

An immediate survey of the situation was made in the Milton area. It was also learnt that serious flooding had occurred at Crown Quay Lane, Little Murston and Elmley Ferry. The total number of houses flooded in the Urban District was found to be 118.

It was anticipated that the Council would desire to take immediate relief measures so far as possible and accordingly arrangements were put in hand, through the ready co-operation of Mr. G. Healey for the gas works to be opened to supply  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of coke and disinfectant to each of the affected families. Messrs. Chamberlain, Kendall and Faulkner and Miss Whitehead were called and they distributed the necessary authorisation to the affected householders and generally assisted throughout the day. The first coke was issued from the gas works at 10.45 a.m.

At 10 a.m. an inspection of the area was carried out by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and approval was given for the steps I had already initiated and for the further steps it was proposed to take.

It was clear that a number of people, because of the suddenness of the flood had lost rationed foodstuffs. Attempts were immediately made to contact the local Food Office, The Maidstone Food Office and the Ministry of Food, Tunbridge Wells. As no reply could be obtained from any of the above-mentioned Offices, the Headquarters of the Ministry of Food, London, were contacted and through the good Offices of Mr. P. L. Wells, M.P., authority was received to permit foodshops in the area, who were willing to open, to sell rationed goods off the ration to flood victims. Arrangements were then made with 6 shops in the area to open and meet any demand which might be put upon them. These arrangements were fully operative by 11.30 a.m.



A closer survey of the position at Milton revealed that a number of people's bedding had been badly damaged by flood and that a certain number were without satisfactory clothes for the time being. An appeal was made through Mrs. Thompson, Commandant of the Women's Detachment of the local Red Cross, for assistance. Mrs. Thompson borrowed a lorry from the local Territorial Army and with her husband as driver immediately left for British Red Cross Headquarters at Lewisham.

In order to obtain a clear picture of the likely needs Mr. W. Porter, District Officer, Kent County Council and Mr. Austin, Commandant of the Men's Section of the local Red Cross, carried out at my request, a door to door canvas of the Milton area, enquiring what people had lost and what they needed.

In the meantime, in view of the magnitude of the national emergency, and the uncertainty of the supplies to be received from the British Red Cross, 4 second-hand mattresses were obtained from Messrs. John Peters & Son. These were distributed during Sunday afternoon.

Meanwhile, arrangements had been made with the President and Secretary of the Milton Conservative Club for the use of the Conservative Hall as a distribution point. All workers in the area including the Police were notified of this arrangement.

A survey was then carried out of the other parts of the town affected by flood which included 15 houses in Crown Quay Lane, 2 at Little Murston (Trimtram Cottages) and Elmley Ferry Cottage. Arrangements were made for a supply of coke and disinfectant to be delivered to the affected households in Crown Quay Lane and enquiries were made as to any requirements of beds, bedding, clothes, etc.

It was ascertained that the occupiers of Trimtram Cottages, Little Murston (Mrs. Head and Mrs. Cray) and Elmley Ferry Cottage (Mr. McDowell) had been successfully evacuated and were provided with accommodation for the time being. At that time the houses in question were completely isolated by flood water and had of necessity to be abandoned. At the time of writing this report (Wednesday, p.m.) these houses continue to be surrounded by flood water.

Consideration was then given to the possibility of laying on a scheme for the drying out of wet bedding. The Key-col Hospital was approached for the use of their steam

disinfector for this purpose and although nothing could be done in this direction on Sunday, they readily agreed to make it available to us from Monday onwards. In point of fact this arrangement proved very satisfactory and so far I am aware all mattresses and bedding were later dried out at the Hospital.

In view of the possibility that some people might be in need of financial assistance, contact was made with the National Assistance Board who informed us that they would deal with any applicants for assistance at Whitdale, Gore Court Road, Sittingbourne. This information was made known to workers in the area.

At 6.45 p.m. on Sunday, considerable quantities of mattresses, blankets, clothes and food arrived from the British Red Cross and requirements of Milton and Crown Quay Lane were met by 8 p.m. A total of 11 mattresses and 27 blankets being distributed.

On Monday morning, gifts of clothing were made from British Red Cross stocks to 2 families in the Wall, Sittingbourne. These being the only two families who in the survey carried out on Sunday intimated that they required clothing.

By Monday morning it appeared that with few exceptions the needs of the Urban District had been satisfied. It was known that Sheerness was in a very difficult situation and it was considered that their need was greater than our own immediate needs. The Medical Officer and I contacted Mr. Griffiths, Clerk to the Sheerness Urban District Council and as they were in urgent need of beds, bedding, clothes, etc., arrangements were made with the Admiralty for a boat to be laid on for the shipment of our surplus British Red Cross stocks to Sheerness. A small quantity of mattresses and bedding was held back at Johnson House to meet any local need which might emerge. The goods which included 36 beds, 150 blankets, 4 cases of meat, 2 cases of milk, 5 cases of clothes, 24 hand brooms complete, 36 scrubbing brushes were transported to Chatham by Council lorry and Health Department van and I understand arrived at Sheerness at 4.30 p.m.

It was clear that considerable numbers of animals including sheep, pigs and beasts, had been drowned and that early steps were necessary for their removal so as to avoid the creation of any public health problems. Tentative arrangements were put in hand on Tuesday for the use of equipment available to the Council to be used for the dig-



ging, if necessary, of mass graves. Contact was made with the Ministry of Agriculture and an agreed scheme decided upon. A survey of the flooded area was carried out and most of the beasts and sheep affected, within the Urban District, were removed by Knackermen.

In view of the possibility of unsuspected damage to water mains in the flooded area and the remote possibility of contamination of the supply, samples of water were procured on Wednesday from various points within the flooded area and submitted for analysis. The Analyst's report indicated that the water was of good bacteriological quality.

A survey of food shops in the area was carried out on Tuesday and Wednesday, 3rd/4th February, 1953, and the following foodstuffs were rejected for human food :—Sugar 87 lbs.; Butter 224½ lbs., Margarine 185½ lbs., Lard 170 lbs., various items of sugar confectionery 36 lbs.

Early in the week the W.V.S. set up in the Town Hall, Sittingbourne, a clothing depot for the reception and sorting of clothes. Whilst the major part of the stock has been sent away to other areas, nevertheless up to the time of writing 21 families from the Milton area and 1 from Elmley Ferry had been supplied with clothing. In addition, 1 complete bed has been supplied to a family in Milton where a child who was ill was sleeping on a damp settee and one complete layette has been supplied, part by the W.V.S. and part by the British Red Cross Society.

On Thursday, 6th February, I was asked, as Emergency Feeding Officer, by the Ministry of Food, to organise a canteen service to supply tea and sandwiches to workers both service and civilian, employed on sea defence works in an area stretching from Kings Ferry Bridge to Graveney Marshes. It was desired to operate the service as from Saturday, 7th February. I asked for and obtained permission to use the kitchen at the Town Hall, Sittingbourne, as base and called upon members of the W.V.S. who are members of the Welfare Section of the Civil Defence Corps from both Sittingbourne and Swale to man the service. Since Saturday, something like 10,000 sandwiches and 200 gallons of tea have been supplied by the organisation set up. I cannot speak too highly of the personnel undertaking this work who have responded to every demand I have made upon them most readily and cheerfully. I would also express my appreciation to the Sittingbourne Co-operative Society, particularly Messrs. Foster and Champion for their untiring



efforts to keep us supplied with foodstuffs and their practical help in putting their equipment at our disposal. Every trader in the town to whom I appealed for either equipment or food supplies most readily responded. I may say that equipment ranges from Motor vehicles to tea urns.

On Friday, 6th February, I was approached by Messrs. Bowater's Lloyd for assistance in setting up reception centres for employees whose homes were on the Isle of Sheppey. I obtained sufficient beds, mattresses, pillows and blankets to set up a reception centre at Kemsley Village Hall for 35 men, from the Hospital Management Committee, and a small one for 14 men at the Band Room, Sittingbourne (this has now been closed). Reception Centres were also prepared at Lloyd's Club House, Avenue of Remembrance and at the Drill Hall, East Street, Sittingbourne (by permission of the War Office). These latter Centres were equipped by Messrs. Bowater's Lloyd from their own resources. Regular inspection of the Centres are being carried out. I am satisfied that they are being conducted on extremely sound lines, Messrs. Bowater's Lloyd being most ready to accept and act upon the advice offered by the Department.

During the period, a very large amount of foodstuffs were received not only from Wholesalers, etc., in the United Kingdom, but from Governments, Associations and private individuals in the Commonwealth Countries and many Foreign Countries. These foodstuffs ranged from tinned milk, soup and meat, to whole carcasses of sheep.

Certain gifts of food were received in bulk and the Staff of the Public Health Department carried out the necessary packing of these into suitable containers for easy distribution.

The main work of distribution was carried out by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs. M. H. Rees, J.P., Mrs. Linforth, Mrs. Ward and other members of the Women's Voluntary Service, assisted by Mr. Chamberlain, together with Members of the Staff of the Public Health Department.

I have attempted to set out the main lines of action initiated or conducted by the Department but obviously, in addition to the details enumerated, during the whole of the emergency there have been dozens of minor jobs undertaken, such as maintaining contact with the Isle of Sheppey for public health matters, acting in the early days as a relay centre for messages for Sheerness, providing food and fuel

for a man isolated by flood water at Kings Ferry Bridge at the request of the Police, finding and supplying blankets for use at Graveney and so on. Although many of the matters thus dealt with were outside our direct responsibility, it was felt that the Council would be anxious to render whatever assistance they could in the emergency.

I would like to express my personal appreciation for help, assistance and forbearance received from the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Mrs. M. H. Rees, J.P., and for the willing co-operation of my brother Officers. I would especially express my appreciation to Mr. Kendall and Mr. Chamberlain for their assistance in emergency work and for dealing with the routine work of the Department, such as food inspection, infectious disease work, etc., which has to go on, emergency or not.

(Signed) ALEXANDER LESLIE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

